

MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/03/93 04:21:33á

----- SPACE FORUM appended at 03:20:06 on 93/02/03 GMT (by RMERGLER at HOUVMSCC)

Subject: NASA Budget Cuts

Ref: None

We received word yesterday that the Space Station/Shuttle Ground Systems development activity should prepare for a potential 11% budget reduction. Rumor has it that the operations side for Shuttle Ground Systems should prepare for a 20% cut. The 11 is on top of a 15% cut in Mar 1992 followed by a 28% cut in July. At this point, the budget for Security, Network Management, Status and Control, Operations Automation, and Operations Support is already zero. Perhaps the idea is to make the development project for Space Station self-funding. We are in the process once again of stepping back to modifying the architecture and redesigning various portions of the ground systems. We're overdue: we did this only 6 months ago. 8-}{}

Ralph Mergler (We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for Auld Lang's Design)

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MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/04/93 01:49:09á

----- SPACE FORUM appended at 00:47:43 on 93/02/04 GMT (by RMERGLER at HOUVMSCC)

Subject: NASA Budget Cuts

Ref: Append at 15:46:59 on 93/02/03 GMT (by GENERAL at BCRVM1)

Sorry about my sloppy phrasing (these 15 hour days have GOT to stop).

I meant to convey that certain subsystems such as Security, Status/Control, etc. actually have zero application budget. That means that whatever comes with the hardware platform such as the Operating System is what will be used as is. To be more blunt, these subsystems will not be integrated with the others and will certainly not meet requirements. Here's a simple example: Security is tasked with assuring that software and associated data certified for use during Flight Ops cannot be polluted or confused with either test versions or an intermediate level of assurance called Sim-certified (passed integration testing but not checked out in a stress/flight-following mode). No COTS product knows of such a dimension and there is no budget to write RACF exits to do any checks like naming conventions.

There are 6 such subsystems so far (that I know of) and the remainder have (in my estimation) from 50 to 90% of what they need individually to produce a "quality" result. This applies only to the ground systems. Some of these already inadequately funded subsystems are at the point where any alternative design meeting minimum requirements costs MORE. The bottom of the funding well where the only way to go is up in cost. I know I was long winded but I hope this clarifies the status of the design activity for the Station/Shuttle Consolidated Control Center. Ralph Mergler (What we need, it's clear, are prestidigital computers)

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MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/17/93 17:55:00á

----- SPACE FORUM appended at 16:56:44 on 93/02/17 GMT (by JPSIMON at YKTMV) -  
Subject: Mars and NASA changing it's idea for showing the TV Pictures

Ref: Append at 13:41:04 on 93/02/17 GMT (by BOSLEYS at CROVM4)

I'm writing this quick appends to make everyone aware of the Mars Mission and NASA idea about transmitting LIVE TV Pictures back to Earth to show us what's going on. If any of you have watched the PBS TV Special on "The Monuments of Mars" which was presented to the UN last Feb. 92 then you may be aware of this. The "Face" on Mars and the theories on this subject are fascinating to say the least. NASA has decided (BTW this is the 1st time they have ever done this) to not release any photo's for at least 2 weeks to 6 months to the public because of the sensativity of this subject. To me and the author of this PBS Documentary Film this is censorship to all of us in Science and to the U.S. Public. I'm concerned and hopefully not out of place by adding this append here to all of you my colleague so you all are aware of this. To me seeing we the United States of America Tax Payers are entitled to seeing everything that NASA is doing in the frontier of space travel and exploration. There's a reason why NASA doesn't want us to see these LIVE PICTURES which by no means should be excluded from our viewing. We need not have to play this game of waiting a few years and having some scientist go thru the thousands of Photo to see what is going on. We should be informed of what the mission is doing and see the "LIVE TV Pictures and transmissions as they occur. There's a lot of interesting theories here that need complete scientific analysis and we the public should be aware of these TV Pictures and shouldn't be "Cencored" via the space agency. I'm concerned as a scientist and wish to let all of you know. If any of you folks get a chance to see "The Monuments of Mars" video which is available at your local video store check it out. The message must be sent to the Congress so we as scientist will be able to make our own conclusions out of the data and photo which the newest satellite will offer to us back here on Earth. Please write to the following individual in Congress to put pressure on NASA to transmit these live TV Picture back to earth so all can see them as they happen not 1 year down the road. Write a letter to: The Honorable George E. Brown, Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology, Rayburn Office Building, Suite 2320, Washington, DC 20515.

Forum Owner I hope I'm in compliance with this forum, I'm concerned on this issue and want to make sure the word gets out to everyone. Thank you for reading this and please don't hesitate, write to Mr. Brown today to view your opinion... I hate to see a bunch of scientist having to go through the Freedom of Information Act in order to gather this Data , evaluate it, and then present it 2 years down the road... Please write.  
John Simons  
IBM Research

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MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/17/93 19:00:42á

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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 18:02:14 on 93/02/17 GMT (by KESLING at LEXVM2) -

Subject: Mars and NASA changing it's idea for showing the TV Pictures

Ref: Append at 16:56:44 on 93/02/17 GMT (by JPSIMON at YKTMV)

Having an association with the NASA Mars group myself, I think I can address the main concern raised: delay in the release of photo images from the Mars mission. According to Dr. Ray Arvidson, this has to do

with the academic community's right to some exclusivity on data returned.

Scientist 'X' designs an experiment and, as a courtesy, is extended a brief period of time to examine results of that experimentation. This is exactly the S.O.P. for Hubble imagery and other science missions. Voyager imagery, presented real-time at time of encounters, is more an exception than a rule. I see nothing sinister in this at all.

Mr. Forum Owner. As you're well aware, the "Monuments on Mars" is a highly-charged issue that has lost much of its objectivity in recent years. Contention swirls around interpretation of an exceptionally meager set of data points which statistically are insignificant. The Mars Observer mission has an opportunity to finally return a conclusive set of data. If these objects have been there thousands, millions, or billions of years... 90 to 180 days more will make no difference.

Further, the concept of a conspiracy to withhold data from the taxpaying American public is ludicrous. NASA/JPL/University science community would leak like a sieve...

Patience is a virtue. And PLEASE... do NOT throw that stupid Applied Optics article back at me as justification.

ftbg dave

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MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/17/93 19:44:18á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 18:45:47 on 93/02/17 GMT (by JPSIMON at YKTMV) -  
Subject: Mars and NASA changing it's idea for showing the TV Pictures  
Ref: Append at 18:02:14 on 93/02/17 GMT (by KESLING at LEXVM2)

Forum Owner, Sorry about my append but I thought it was very interesting, please delete my append. Sorry for any inconvenience I didn't think I was going to get so many opinions on this subject. My reader is full with comments from users who've read it. Didn't mean to stir up this much skepticism and thought the PBS Special as excellent. Thank you so much.

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MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/17/93 20:00:47á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 19:02:29 on 93/02/17 GMT (by TRAUTMAN at PKEDVM7)  
Subject: Mars and NASA changing it's idea for showing the TV Pictures  
Ref: Append at 18:02:14 on 93/02/17 GMT (by KESLING at LEXVM2)

Good point on the Hubble delays, etc. I think the concern has been raised and reasonable reply has appeared to some of the points made. Lets leave the rest of the action to happen outside of the forum rather than in it. I general discussion of policy of delaying the release of NASA is of little use in the forum since we are not in a position to change the policy. Ok?

Bill Trautman

Internet: BTrautman@vnet.ibm.com

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\$MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/08/93 19:26:44á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 18:25:14 on 93/03/08 GMT (by JBESSANT at HOUVMSCC)  
Subject: NASA/SSF News Items

WHAT'S AHEAD IN AEROSPACE (Aerospace Daily); HOLD THE ADVICE:  
NASA has postponed a meeting of its outside advisory council because "things are up in the air" at the agency. The group won't gather until June, when NASA officials presumably will be able to brief them on changes in the Space Station program and the impact of the Clinton Administration's first budget.

STATION UTILIZATION CONFERENCE POSTPONED PENDING REDESIGN (Aerospace Daily): NASA has postponed indefinitely a planned conference for potential Space Station users in the wake of a White House decision to redesign the orbiting laboratory, the agency announced Friday. Page 371.

John C. Bessant, Houston, Texas, USA

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\$MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/09/93 20:42:51á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 19:41:32 on 93/03/09 GMT (by RMERGLER at HOUVMSCC)  
Subject: NASA/SSF News Items  
Ref: Append at 18:25:14 on 93/03/08 GMT (by JBESSANT at HOUVMSCC)  
At the Program Control Board this week, the Station Ground Control Center prime contractor intends to request a delay in the Facility Baseline Review (scheduled for April 29-30, 1993) pending direction from NASA on potential requirements changes. This is the equivalent of the consolidated Subsystem Detailed Design Review. We are known in the official list as Work Package 5.  
Ralph Mergler (NASA - Changing Science Fiction into Future History)

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\$MSG From: IBMPC --YKTMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/09/93 21:31:20á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 20:30:14 on 93/03/09 GMT (by KOHL at HOUVMSCC) --  
Subject: NASA/SSF News Items  
Ref: Append at 19:41:32 on 93/03/09 GMT (by RMERGLER at HOUVMSCC)

Having just returned from Reston, VA, home of NASA's Space Station Freedom Project Office, I can verify that Freedom-related 'things' are not being attacked very aggressively (other than the obvious and various Redesign teams) for the same reason: unsureness on just what in the heck is going to happen! A few of my Payload-related friends indicated that just about everyone goes home, on time.

Dan Goldin has apparently directed all contractors(primes, subs, etc) to cease and desist any/all overtime activities until further notice. Also, no new Subcontract Change Notices(SCCNs) for any 'new' work. As for me, I'm going home, today, at 3:30 p.m., sharp(a part of the day I've not seen for quite some time!). Stay tuned, as I personally believe that Freedom is in it's most vulnerable position, ever. The bad news is that I may somehow be involved in ensuring Freedom's future viability!

Not a pretty sight!

Ron Kohl, Space Station Sys. Eng. FSC Houston

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\$MSG From: IBMPC --YKTVMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/10/93 12:07:31á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 11:09:16 on 93/03/10 GMT (by MERAKH at KGNVMZ) --  
Subject: NASA/SSF News Items  
Ref: Append at 20:30:14 on 93/03/09 GMT (by KOHL at HOUVMSCC)

It's madness, sheer madness! After all the years, designs, redesigns, and somewhere in the neighborhood of 8 billion dollars spent, things grind completely to a halt and who knows what we'll get and when. That's what happens when you leave important things like space exploration and development to the government.

Mark Rakhmilevich

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\$MSG From: IBMPC --YKTVMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/10/93 13:08:35á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 12:10:45 on 93/03/10 GMT (by CON0180 at WINVMC) -  
Subject: NASA/SSF News Items  
Ref: Append at 11:09:16 on 93/03/10 GMT (by MERAKH at KGNVMZ)  
Oh I don't know ... I'm sure we can all recall IBM projects which cost vast amounts of money and ended up on the dustheap. It happens when you aren't really sure what you want. This is not restricted to Governments.

Greg Stewart-Nicholls

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\$MSG From: IBMPC --YKTVMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/10/93 14:40:46á  
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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 13:39:38 on 93/03/10 GMT (by GLASS at LEXVM2) ---  
Subject: NASA/SSF News Items  
Ref: Append at 12:10:45 on 93/03/10 GMT (by CON0180 at WINVMC)

What's really bad is when a project which should have ended up on the dust heap is announced! (I'm sure we can all name a few). Sometimes it's better to stop and re-evaluate where you're going before you get there!

Dave

P.S. Don't get me wrong, I hope we finally do get Ed up. It's just that I want Ed to be a useful space station, and not just a glittery piece of orbiting space debris.

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§MSG From: IBMPC --YKTVMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/10/93 16:22:27á

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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 15:21:10 on 93/03/10 GMT (by KOHL at HOUVMSCC) --

Subject: NASA/SSF News Items

Ref: Append at 12:10:45 on 93/03/10 GMT (by CON0180 at WINVMC)

Greg has hit the nail on the head. Incompetence, foolishness and good ol' fashioned lousy decision making is not limited to any one sector of this planet. As for Freedom(er, Fred; oh, I meant perhaps Ed), we continue to watch the adventure just like the rest of you space cadets.

btw, during the lunch hour, tommorrow, a replay of our site General Manager's(Tony Macina) testimony to the Congressional subcommittee(from last week) will be aired. Tony was one of the 'contractors' on Freedom that was 'invited' to testify before this subcommittee, along with a variety of the NASA Space Station mgmt team. stay tuned.

Ron Kohl, Space Station Sys. Eng. FSC Houston

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§MSG From: IBMPC --YKTVMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 03/10/93 20:07:54á

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----- SPACE FORUM appended at 18:05:02 on 93/03/10 GMT (by RMERGLER at HOUVMSCC)

Subject: NASA/SSF News Items

Ref: Append at 15:21:10 on 93/03/10 GMT (by KOHL at HOUVMSCC)

In a note, Tony the Tiger said that thanks to meetings with Congressional staff members earlier, the testimony went well (including an introduction by Rep. Brooks, Dean of the Texas delegation) and that the true battles are expected to be on the House floor (and the corridors of NASA). Some of us wonder whether we'll EVER get off this planet in numbers that matter...

Ralph Mergler (Mission to Mars - Trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania)

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